



# grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

**January 8-14, 2018**

**Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester:  
"Come and See"**

Notes from sermon on 1/7:

Prayer requests:

**Family Focus Question (before sermon):**

It is said that one "does not discuss politics and religion, and as a result, we have forgotten how to talk about either."  
How is this true or untrue in your life?

**3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):**

1. Where, in what place, and through what person or persons do you hear the call of the Lord?  
Consider it each day this week.
2. Who has awakened in you a new prayer, a hope, an insight?  
Give thanks for those persons and moments as signs of God's love for you.
3. Who is God calling you to speak to about Christ this week?

**Monday, January 8: Read John 1:43-51**

How do we talk about our faith to others? Do we at all? Should we at all? Is there a difference between proselytizing and witnessing? Is there a sensitive way we can stand up for our beliefs while still respecting the beliefs of others? These are questions with which most Christians, and definitely most Methodists, struggle regularly. We know that our faith was never meant to be a private affair - we believe in the great commission to make disciples for Christ - yet most of us admit to being uncomfortable talking about Jesus to strangers, coworkers, or acquaintances.

Our lectionary readings this week offer wonderful insight on how we can boldly and effectively share our faith with others...as well as perhaps show us some mistakes to avoid. In today's gospel reading, Philip demonstrates one of the most basic and powerful ways we can share our faith: inviting others to "come and see" for themselves. Are we inviting people to come and see the work of Christ in our church? What would happen this year if each Reveille member invited just one person to "come and see"?

**Tuesday, January 9: Read I Samuel 3:1-9**

What is God calling us to do and say? Like young Samuel, we may feel God's voice tugging at our hearts to say something, or do something, even when we are afraid or confused. Perhaps God keeps repeatedly bringing the same person across our path. Could God be calling us to say something? If we find ourselves thinking of someone, seemingly randomly, could that be a call to speak to them?

**Wednesday, January 10: Read I Samuel 3:10-20**

Sharing our faith isn't always easy or popular. Sharing what God is speaking to our hearts can even be risky. Today's reading from the book of Samuel shows how even the youngest of us can face uncertainty and fear when facing the task of sharing what God has put on our hearts. Prophets are people who speak for God, which throughout much of the Bible consists of a combination of encouraging others and warning others of the impending consequences of their sins. We can easily see how tricky this job can be, and how easily it can be abused, or misguided. Samuel's ability to be a trustworthy prophet stemmed in part to his discipline and obedience in constantly remaining close to God, never withholding or adding to the words God put on his heart. How can we help ensure that the words we speak, and listen to, are God's words, and not from selfish ambition or human bias? Let us pray today that everything we do and say reflects God's love, wisdom, and truth as revealed through God's Word and God's Son.

**Thursday, January 11: Read I Corinthians 6:12-20**

In today's reading, Paul's words to the church in Corinth are strong – even harsh – as he warns against sexual immorality while defending a loosening of Jewish dietary laws. Notice, however, that his words are in love, pointing out that our bodies are temples, and we are so loved by Christ that we were “bought at a price.” By focusing on how precious each of us is to God we can help form disciples of Christ who can live happier, holier lives in accordance to God's will and Word.

**Friday, January 12: Read Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

Witnesses speak from personal experience. Today's psalmist is an incredible witness to God's love, as these words stem from a deeply personal relationship between the psalmist and God, who knows that he is “fearfully and wonderfully made” by a God who knows every single part of him. When we know the joy of knowing God and being known by God, we can then invite others to enjoy what every one of us craves most: love, security, belonging, and a sense of value.

**Saturday, January 13: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 139:14**

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”

**Sunday, January 14: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of**

**Common Confession:** *Holy God, you see into each of us and know us fully as creatures in need of your constant care. We confess that we have neither heard your word nor followed your will. We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves. Give us ears to hear your wisdom. Lead us to honesty and faith so that we may begin again with renewed strength; in Jesus' name. Amen.*